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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/530,253	04/26/2000	HENNING MAAB	PHD98.097	6706
24737	7590	04/20/2004	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			WOO, RICHARD SUKYOON	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			PAPER NUMBER	

3629

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/530,253	MAAB ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Richard Woo	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

- 1) Applicant's response filed January 29, 2004 is acknowledged.
- 2) Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that Ladner does not disclose or suggest: the locating system including at least one data carrier to transmit its position to the information unit only in the case of initialization and movement of the data carrier from the area, a recitation of the intended use (transmit its position only in the case of...) of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Furthermore, Ladner discloses the locating system that is capable of tracking movement of the data carrier (see col. 4, lines 59-67), and in order to track the movement of the data carrier, the data transmitter inherently transmits its position to the information unit whenever there is the movement of the data carrier from the area.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- 3) Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ladner et al. (US 5,594,425).

W.R.T. Claim 1:

Ladner et al. discloses a locating system comprising:
at least one data carrier (12) located in an area, the carrier including a position sensor, a transmitter and a receiver (see Fig. 2);
an information unit (18) which is remote from the carrier for storing area information and transmitting the area information to the carrier;
wherein the carrier transmits its position to the information unit only in the case of initialization and movement of the at least one data carrier from the area (col. 3, lines 4-45) and wherein a third party interrogates the information unit for the position of the carrier (see *Supra Response to the arguments*).

W.R.T. Claim 2:

Ladner et al. further discloses the system, wherein the carrier has a receiver for receiving area boundaries corresponding to the area (see Fig. 2), and a memory (part of computer 26) for storing the area boundaries and absolute position data, and a comparator for comparing the position data with the area information when the transmitter transmits the boundaries of the area to the carrier.

W.R.T. Claim 3:

Ladner et al. discloses a method of locating an object provided with a data carrier located in an area, the method comprising:

the data carrier (12) receiving position data from a position-determining system (10 or 18);

the data carrier transmitting position data to an information unit (18);

allocating the position data to an area in the information unit;

transmitting the boundaries of the area to the data carrier;

upon each movement of the data carrier comparing a position of the data carrier with the boundaries of the area;

transmitting new position data to the information unit only in the case of a negative result of the comparison of the area boundaries transmitted by the information unit with the position of the data carrier (see *Supra Response to the arguments*); and

interrogating the information unit from a third party for the position of the data carrier (col. 3, lines 4-45).

Ladner et al. further discloses the method, wherein the position data transmitted by the data carrier is translated into area data in the information unit and the area in which the data carrier is located is stored in the information unit (col. 5, line 15 – col. 7, line 14).

Conclusion

4) **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

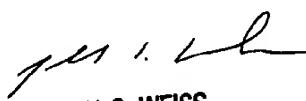
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.


Richard Woo
Patent Examiner
GAU 3629
April 16, 2004


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600